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8	BEFORE THE		
9	BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS		
10	STATE OF CALIFORNIA		
11			
12	In the Matter of the Accusation Against: Case No. 2010-233		
13	NANCY KAREN MONDRAGON 154 Canyon Rim Drive		
14	Folsom, California 95630 ACCUSATION		
15	Registered Nurse License No. 332459 Public Health Nurse License No. 32380		
16	Respondent.		
17	Respondent.		
18	Louise R. Bailey, M.Ed., RN ("Complainant") alleges:		
19	<u>PARTIES</u>		
20	1. Complainant brings this Accusation solely in her official capacity as the Interim		
21	Executive Officer of the Board of Registered Nursing ("Board"), Department of Consumer		
22	Affairs.		
23	Registered Nurse License		
24	2. On or about September 30, 1981, the Board issued Registered Nurse License Number		
25	332459 to Nancy Karen Mondragon ("Respondent"). The license will expire on		
26	February 28, 2011, unless renewed.		
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#### Public Health Nurse License

3. On or about March 3, 1982, the Board issued Public Health Nurse License Number 32380 to Respondent. The license will expire on February 28, 2011, unless renewed.

### **JURISDICTION**

- 4. Business and Professions Code ("Code") section 2750 provides, in pertinent part, that the Board may discipline any licensee, including a licensee holding a temporary or an inactive license, for any reason provided in Article 3 (commencing with section 2750) of the Nursing Practice Act.
- 5. Code section 2764 provides, in pertinent part, that the expiration of a license shall not deprive the Board of jurisdiction to proceed with a disciplinary proceeding against the licensee or to render a decision imposing discipline on the license. Under Code section 2811(b), the Board may renew an expired license at any time within eight years after the expiration.

# STATUTORY PROVISIONS

- 6. Code section 2761 states, in pertinent part:
- "The board may take disciplinary action against a certified or licensed nurse or deny an application for a certificate or license for any of the following:
  - (a) Unprofessional conduct, which includes, but is not limited to, the following:
- (1) Incompetence, or gross negligence in carrying out usual certified or licensed nursing functions."
  - 7. California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1442, states:
- "As used in Section 2761 of the code, 'gross negligence' includes an extreme departure from the standard of care which, under similar circumstances, would have ordinarily been exercised by a competent registered nurse. Such an extreme departure means the repeated failure to provide nursing care as required or failure to provide care or to exercise ordinary precaution in a single situation which the nurse knew, or should have known, could have jeopardized the client's health or life."

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#### COST RECOVERY

8. Code section 125.3 provides, in pertinent part, that the Board may request the administrative law judge to direct a licentiate found to have committed a violation or violations of the licensing act to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of the case.

# **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 9. On or about December 12, 2004, at 1929 hours, a 6-month-old female infant, N.D., was brought into the emergency room at Kaiser Permanente Medical Center, located in Sacramento, California, by her parents, who presented her with complaints of fever, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and her hands and face turning blue.
- 10. Between 1932 and 1940 hours, Respondent performed an initial medical screening examination of N.D. Respondent noted N.D.'s pulse at 190; respirations at 40; temperature at 100.6; and that she was unable to obtain N.D.'s oxygen saturation level. In addition, Respondent noted that N.D. was fussy, and would not take to her mother's breast. Also during the examination, N.D.'s mother told Respondent that N.D. has had diarrhea (4 days), fever (4 days), and that N.D.'s hands and face had been turning blue. Respondent assessed N.D.'s condition as a Priority 2 (Emergent/Stable).
  - 11. At 2007 hours, N.D. was put in a room for an examination by a physician.
- 12. At 2107 hours, a physician began examining N.D. During the examination, N.D. went into cardiac arrest. Resuscitation efforts were successful.
  - 13. At 2150 hours, N.D. was transferred/admitted to the intensive care unit.
- 14. At 2252 hours, N.D. went into cardiac arrest again. Resuscitation efforts were unsuccessful, and N.D. was pronounced dead at 2338 hours.

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## FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

### (Gross Negligence)

- 15. Respondent is subject to discipline under Code section 2761(a), on the grounds of unprofessional conduct, as defined in Code section 2761(a)(1), in that on or about December 12, 2004, while on duty as a triage nurse in the emergency room at Kaiser Permanente Medical Center, located in Sacramento, California, Respondent was grossly negligent as follows:
  - a. Respondent failed to recognize N.D.'s abnormal vital signs.
  - b. Respondent failed to recognize that N.D. was in respiratory distress.
- c. Respondent failed to recognize the significance of her inability to obtain a pulse oximetry reading.

Respondent failed to consider the above, in conjunction with N.D.'s medical history, which cumulatively demonstrated how critically ill N.D. was, and indicated the need to seek immediate intervention.

# SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

# (Unprofessional Conduct)

16. Respondent is subject to discipline under Code section 2761(a), on the grounds of unprofessional conduct, in that on or about December 12, 2004, while on duty as a triage nurse in the emergency room at Kaiser Permanente Medical Center, located in Sacramento, California, Respondent demonstrated unprofessional conduct, as more particularly set forth above in paragraph 15.

#### PRAYER

WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged, and that following the hearing, the Board issue a decision:

- Revoking or suspending Registered Nurse License Number 332459, issued to Nancy Karen Mondragon;
- 2. Revoking or suspending Public Health Nurse License Number 32380, issues to Nancy Karen Mondragon;

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Accusation